



ARIZONA STATE SENATE

Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2452

cash assistance; eligibility; children

Purpose

Removes the kid cap related to Cash Assistance for certain dependent children.

Background

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance program provides temporary cash benefits and supportive services to Arizona's children and their families. Eligibility is based on citizenship or qualified noncitizen resident status, Arizona residency and limits on resources and monthly income.

Cash Assistance may be provided to a variety of needy families with dependent children, including: 1) kinship care families; 2) kinship foster care families; 3) two-parent families; 4) unwed minor parents; and 5) legal permanent guardians. Adults receiving cash benefits are required to complete and sign a Personal Responsibility Agreement, specifying their willingness to engage in work activities that will lead to employment and to comply with child support payments, if applicable (des.az.gov).

Arizona statute deems any child born during the following three periods of time ineligible for cash assistance benefits: 1) when the child's parent or other relative caregiver is receiving welfare benefits; 2) during a voluntary interruption in the caregiver's welfare benefits of less than five years; and 3) while the caregiver is temporarily ineligible for benefits due to noncompliance with an eligibility requirement. When a child is born during one of these periods, the caregiver is prohibited from receiving the increase in cash assistance for that child, and the child is prohibited from receiving cash assistance benefits permanently. This is known as the "benefit cap" or "kid cap." (A.R.S. § 46-292).

Based on information currently available, DES anticipates that restoring eligibility for benefit cap excluded children as contained in this bill will result in an annual increase of approximately \$500,000 in TANF cash grant payments.

	Approximate Number of Benefit Cap Excluded Children	Approximate Annual Impact
In the legal custody of DCS – current active cases that include a benefit capped child who is not included in the Cash Assistance grant	400	\$300,000
In the legal custody of DCS – previously denied cases that will now be eligible	85	\$180,000
Residing with Non-parent – parents deceased	20	\$10,000
Residing with Non-parent – Abandonment	20	\$10,000
Residing with Non-parent – Placed by Court	Cannot determine at this time	Cannot determine at this time
Totals	525	\$500,000

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Provisions

1. Requires DES to allow cash assistance for an otherwise eligible dependent child during the period in which the dependent child is in the legal custody of the Department of Child Safety and is placed in unlicensed kinship foster care with a nonparent relative.
2. Requires DES to allow cash assistance for an otherwise eligible child who meets one of the following:
 - a) the court has placed the child with a nonparent relative;
 - b) the child's parents are deceased and the child is living with a nonparent relative; or
 - c) a nonparent relative has custody of the child because the child is abandoned.
3. Makes technical changes.
4. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

House Action

CFA	2/8/16	DP	9-0-0
3 rd Read	2/18/16		57-0-3

Prepared by Senate Research

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